



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Recently you received documents regarding the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to purchase a conservation easement (aka Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement) from Olson Farms. This conservation easement constitutes 298 acres in Cascade County, Montana. The land is located approximately 0.5 mile south of Ulm along the Missouri and Smith Rivers and adjoins the 163 acre FWP Ulm Fishing Access Site.

Comments received regarding the Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement Proposal are summarized in the enclosed Decision Notice. No modifications were made to the documents you received as a result of the public review period. Please consider your previous copies of the draft Environmental Assessment and Management Plan as final.

It is my recommendation to purchase a conservation easement from Olson Farms utilizing FWP Habitat Montana and Upland Game Bird Program dollars, along with additional Partner dollars, subject to approval by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Commission will be asked to approve the purchase of this easement at their November 13, 2014 meeting. The Montana Board of Land Commissioners will ultimately have final vote at their regularly scheduled meeting in November or December 2014, should the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the Department's recommendation to purchase the conservation easement.

Thank you for your interest and involvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gary Bertellotti". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Gary Bertellotti
Region 4 Supervisor
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5840
gbertellotti@mt.gov

Decision Notice

Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement

Environmental Assessment

Prepared By:
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 4 Wildlife Division
4600 Giant Springs Rd.
Great Falls MT 59405

October 24, 2014

INTRODUCTION

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has the authority under law (MCA 87-1-201) to protect, enhance and regulate the use of Montana's fish and wildlife resources for public benefit now and in the future. In 1987, the Montana Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 526, which earmarked hunting license revenues to secure wildlife habitat through lease, conservation easement or fee title acquisition (MCA 87-1-241 and 242). This is now referred to as FWP's Habitat Montana Program. Habitat Montana recognizes that certain native plant communities constituting wildlife habitat are worthy of perpetual conservation. Those communities include intermountain grasslands, sagebrush grasslands and riparian corridors. Pheasant Bend includes such habitats and warrants conservation considerations. A conservation easement was offered to FWP by Jeff Olson, owner of Olson Farms. This offer reflects the landowner's desire to maintain and protect the family's agricultural lifestyle, while maintaining and/or enhancing wildlife habitats. This easement would ensure the property remains in private ownership and operation, while preserving important agricultural lands, wildlife habitats and open space. The easement would also guarantee public recreational access for hunting, trapping, hiking and wildlife viewing on the project area. As with other FWP property interest proposals, the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission must approve any easement or acquisition proposed by the Department. In addition, the Montana Board of Land Commissioners is also required to review and approve the Department's proposal for this conservation easement purchase as this action has a value greater than \$100,000 and is larger than 100 acres. This Decision Notice is part of that evaluation process.

Pheasant Bend meets and/or exceeds all qualifications of FWP's Habitat Montana and Upland Game Bird programs. After reviewing public comment on the proposed easement, the FWP Region 4 Supervisor recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the purchase of the proposed conservation easement from Olson Farms.

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT PROCESS

FWP is required to assess impacts to the human and physical environment under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement proposal and its effects were documented by FWP in an Environmental Assessment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A public comment period for the Environmental Assessment (EA) was established and available from September 24 through October 23, 2014. A public notice of the proposed action was offered to about 50 newspapers and news outlets in the state, and was also placed on the FWP website under "Public Notices". A public meeting was held at the Ulm School on October 9, 2014. Approximately 75 copies of the Environmental Assessment were electronically distributed to adjacent landowners, sportsmen groups, MT Stockgrowers, County Commissioners and other interested parties. Copies were available at the FWP Region 4 Headquarters during indicated comment period. Alternatives available in the draft EA for comment as follows:

Alternative A (Preferred): This alternative is to purchase a conservation easement utilizing funding and habitat partnerships as mentioned above. FWP would hold and monitor the conservation easement.

Alternative B: This alternative addresses the option of not purchasing a conservation easement and purchasing the property fee title. The property is not offered for sale to FWP, therefore this alternative is not an option.

Alternative C: This alternative is that only FWP would purchase the conservation easement. This would result in loss of potential funding partnerships from PPL Montana, PF, DU, SCI and MFWCT. This would also result in loss of partnerships among these entities on a very important wildlife habitat conservation project.

Alternative D: This is a "no action" alternative and would not result in critical riparian and wetland habitat conservation. With no action, the land would most likely become subdivided or sold in the near future.

All public comments received remain on file at the Great Falls FWP office and are available for public review. Consideration and evaluation of public comment is distilled in the attached Public Comment and Issues Addendum to the EA.

Public Meeting: A public meeting was held at the Ulm School on October 9, 2014 having zero (0) public attendance. FWP representation included: Cory Loecker - Region 4 Great Falls Area Wildlife Biologist. Copies of the EA and Management Plan were made available to all attendees, as was a comment sheet.

Written Comments: Written comment totaled **24** responses. Twenty four (**24**) responses endorsed Alternative A - "Proposed Action" of FWP purchasing a Conservation Easement from Olson Farms, with zero (**0**) respondents opposing the "Proposed Action". Comments were received from 20 individuals and 4 organized groups. Further analysis of comment follows:

Comment supporting purchase of conservation easement (Alt A "Proposed Action")	24
<u>Comment opposed purchasing conservation easement (Alt D "No Action")</u>	<u>0</u>
Total comments received (all MT residents)	24

The comments/responses are included in a Public Comment and Issues Addendum attached to this Decision Notice.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the analysis in the EA and in consideration of public comment addressed in the Addendum, FWP has selected the preferred "Proposed Action" alternative. This decision is in the best interest of the public, wildlife and wildlife habitat resources and is consistent with current Habitat Montana program guidelines, goals and objectives. FWP has reviewed the EA and applicable laws, regulations and policies and has determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

MODIFICATIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

No modifications to the Environmental Analysis, Management Plan or Socio Economic Analysis were made as a result of the public review period.

DECISION

Utilizing the Environmental Analysis, Management Plan and public comment, a decision must be rendered by FWP that addresses the interests and issues identified for this proposed project. Given results of FWP's analysis coupled with public comment, FWP's purchase of the Pheasant Bend conservation easement from Olson Farms utilizing FWP Habitat Montana and Upland Game Bird Program funds, and Partner dollars, is warranted. After review of this proposal and the corresponding public support and comment, it is my recommendation that FWP purchase the Pheasant Bend conservation easement from Olson Farms subject to approval by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

CONCLUSION

By notification of this Decision Notice, the draft EA is hereby made the final EA. The finding of selection of the preferred Alternative A - "Proposed Action" is the product of this Decision Notice.



Gary Bertellotti

Region 4 Supervisor
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
4600 Giant Springs Rd.
Great Falls, MT 59405

10/28/2014
Date

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement
Environmental Assessment

Public Comment and Issues Addendum

Public comment was solicited on the draft Environmental Assessment "Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement" from September 24 through October 23, 2014. Written comment totaled 24 responses. Twenty four (24) responses endorsed "Proposed Action" Alternative A of the draft EA, with zero (0) respondents opposing the "Proposed Action" of FWP purchasing the Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement from Olson Farms. Further analysis of comment follows:

Comment supporting purchase of conservation easement (Alt A "Proposed Action") **24**

Comment opposed purchasing conservation easement (Alt D "No Action") **0**

Total comments received (all MT residents) **24**

Issues and Comments:

Twenty four (24) individuals and/or organizations commented in favor of Alternative A - "Proposed Action" of FWP to purchase the Pheasant Bend conservation easement from Olson Farms. All parties supported maintaining wildlife, wildlife habitats, open spaces and recreational access opportunities into perpetuity. Zero (0) commented opposing the "Proposed Action". Comments received on the proposal as follows:

From: jim_lange@fws.gov [mailto:jim_lange@fws.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:52 AM

To: FWP Region 4

Subject: Public Comment: Draft Environmental Assessment Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement

I completely support the Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement Proposal. Easements are innovative tools that support local agriculture while providing public access for recreational interests.

From: tdickson443@hotmail.com [<mailto:tdickson443@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 3:35 PM

To: FWP Region 4

Subject: Public Comment: Draft Environmental Assessment Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement

I am very much in favor of FWP buying this CE but strongly suggest changing the name so something like "Wildlife Bend." Otherwise you'll have every pheasant hunter in central Montana flocking to this spot, which for years only a handful of us have known about.

From: Randy Gazda [<mailto:rgazda@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:51 AM

To: FWP Region 4

Subject: Attn: Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement Proposal Attn: Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement Proposal

Montana FWP:

This is another great project and I am in full support FWP purchasing an easement on Olson Farms.

Keep up the good work!

Randy Gazda
POB1173
Seeley Lake, MT 59868

From: Halvorson, Corey M LtCol USAF ANG 120 CF/CC
[<mailto:corey.halvorson@ang.af.mil>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:56 PM
To: FWP Region 4
Subject: Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement Proposal

My name is Corey Halvorson, a sportsman and conservationist, and I am in favor of the Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement as proposed. This property could very easily be developed and lose it's "natural" value. Please give this project positive consideration.

Respectfully,
Corey Halvorson

From: snyder1421@comcast.net [<mailto:snyder1421@comcast.net>]
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2014 12:18 PM
To: FWP Region 4
Subject: Pheasant Bend CE Proposal

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my strong support for the acquisition of the Pheasant Bend CE in Cascade County. I have seen the huge upswing in housing development along the Missouri River corridor, and am concerned with the loss of public access and hunting opportunity as a result. I have hunted both upland birds and waterfowl on the Missouri River in the location where this easement is located and can attest to the value it holds to the public as a hunting and fishing location.

This section of the Missouri River is excellent wildlife habitat and should be protected when the opportunity presents itself. The benefit to hunters, anglers, and the general public will be significant. Although I no longer reside in Montana, I still purchase non-resident hunting and fishing licenses. The primary reason I do so is because of the high quality public access areas that Montana has. I strongly urge the Commission members to support this proposed easement.

Thank you.

Jason Snyder
130 W 28th Avenue
Spokane, WA 99203
snyder1421@comcast.net.

Cory, Pheasant Bend CE looks like an excellent project and continuation of your good work on the river.
Clive

From: otisranch@wispwest.net [<mailto:otisranch@wispwest.net>]

Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2014 8:34 AM

To: FWP Region 4

Subject: Public Comment: Draft Environmental Assessment Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement

Dear Fish Wildlife & Parks Commission,

I support the Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement purchase. I think the price is more than fair!!! The access agreement is as good as owning the land, at a tenth of the price, so please approve this purchase. Also Thank "Olson Farms" for wanting to do the right thing and keep this land in agriculture.

Bert Otis

PO Box 60

Emigrant, MT 59027

From: rjcrooks@msn.com [<mailto:rjcrooks@msn.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:12 AM

To: FWP Region 4

Subject: Public Comment: Draft Environmental Assessment Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement

Dear FWP,

I'm writing in support of the proposed easement at Pheasant Bend. As proposed this easement would appear to be a win-win situation for both the public and the landowner, meeting the needs of both parties.

From: Steve Leathe [<mailto:sleathe@msn.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:30 PM

To: FWP Region 4

Subject: Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement

Dear FWP - I have reviewed the Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement proposal for property near the Missouri River near Ulm, MT and am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposal. I have lived and worked in the Great Falls area for almost 30 years and I am an active hunter and angler. Over the years I have noticed a substantial amount of riverfront habitat conversion from agriculture and open space to subdivisions and residential development. The Missouri River upstream from Great Falls has excellent wildlife habitat in areas that have not been developed for residential purposes. I am familiar with the Pheasant Bend property and know it has excellent riverbottom habitat for gamebirds, deer, and numerous nongame species. Most of Montana's Neotropical migratory birds are heavily dependent on good quality riverbottom habitat, which the Pheasant Bend area has in abundance. It seems to me that if this property is not protected via your proposed conservation easement, most of this high-quality habitat will eventually be permanently lost to residential development. Montana FWP has been extremely proactive in securing conservation easements on other riverfront properties in the area, including the Bird Creek Ranch and others. This will serve as a great and lasting legacy to benefit local sportsmen and women, conservationists, and our precious wildlife resources. I strongly support the FWP proposal to secure a conservation easement on the Pheasant Bend property.

Sincerely,

Steve Leathe
2817 Third Ave North
Great Falls, MT 50401

From: Jim and Karen Stutzman [<mailto:stutz292@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 8:28 AM
To: FWP Region 4
Subject: Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to provide my strong support for the proposed conservation easement on the Olson Farm (aka Pheasant Bend) tract.

I live in Ulm, Montana and have benefitted greatly from recent MFWP easement acquisitions in the Missouri River corridor between Cascade and Ulm. I also hike, hunt and bird watch on the Ulm Bridge Fishing Access Site. In fact, my wife and I take daily walks along the FAS and Olson Farm tract. In the past few months we have seen osprey, white-tailed deer, pheasant, bald eagle, great blue heron, Canada geese, and a variety of non-game birds (e.g. yellow warbler, American goldfinch, vesper sparrow, savannah sparrow, dark-eyed junco, black-capped chickadee). The wildlife diversity on and adjacent to Olson Farms is impressive.

I applaud FWP's efforts to enhance public access opportunities and improve wildlife habitat in Cascade County. The proposed conservation easement on Pheasant Bend will reduce the growing rate of habitat fragmentation within the Missouri River corridor.

I also support the use of conservation easements to find 'win-win' solutions between agricultural producers and wildlife interests. It is refreshing to see agencies collaborating with private landowners to protect habitat while allowing agricultural use to continue.

Finally, this proposal includes a strong partnership component. As a taxpayer, I support leveraging public funds with conservation organization funding. This proposal includes a 30% match from non-government sources.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this proposal. Please contact me if you need clarification on this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Jim Stutzman
PO Box 292
Ulm, MT 59485
406-799-4393

From: Jim Stutzman [<mailto:jim.stutzman@iwjv.org>]
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 9:20 AM
To: FWP Region 4
Subject: Olson Farm (aka Pheasant Bend) Conservation Easement

To Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks,

I represent the Great Falls (Upper Missouri) Chapter of Pheasants Forever (PF). Our chapter membership is comprised primarily of Cascade County residents. The goal of PF is enhancing habitat for upland gamebirds and other wildlife species.

The Upper Missouri PF Chapter **strongly supports** MFWP's proposal to protect approximately 300 acres of riparian, wetland and farmland habitat on the Olson Farm tract with a perpetual conservation easement. To demonstrate our commitment to this project, our chapter has pledged \$5,000 towards the easement purchase price. Other conservation organizations (DU, SCI, MT Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust) are also contributing funds. This robust partnership is a testament to the collaborative efforts between MFWP and non-government organizations (NGO's) to provide public access and enhance wildlife habitat in Cascade County.

This project builds on other MFWP conservation easement projects along the Missouri River. This network of conservation lands addresses threats to resident wildlife populations by preventing fragmentation and improving habitat conditions. Increased public access opportunities is another strong attribute of these projects. I and other PF members have personally taken advantage of the access opportunities on the Riverbend Ranch, Bird Tail Ranch and the Ulm Bridge Fishing Access Site. We applaud MFWP's efforts to provide quality upland gamebird hunting opportunities. Because of its proximity to the Ulm Bridge FAS, this proposal build on past public access successes.

Please contact me if you have questions about these comments and keep up the good work.

James W. Stutzman, Chair
Upper Missouri Pheasants Forever
PO Box 292
Ulm, MT 59485

From: tmcelroy77@hotmail.com [<mailto:tmcelroy77@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 9:44 PM
To: FWP Region 4
Subject: Public Comment: Draft Environmental Assessment Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement

As a sportsman and local resident I support the pheasant bend easement proposal. Thanks Tom

From: KSTOnge@whitefishcu.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 4:31 PM
To: FWP Region 4
Subject: Pheasant Bend CE

Greetings:

I am sending this comment in favor of the Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement. This CE will provide significant long term benefits by protecting this native habitat from subdivision and other encroachments and guaranteeing public recreational access in perpetuity. The No Action Alternative is not an acceptable alternative. Please proceed with acquisition of the Pheasant Bend CE.

Thank you,

Kelly St. Onge
311 Park Ave.
Whitefish MT 59937

From: LLOYD RUTH [<mailto:lstraits@msn.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 10:37 PM
To: FWP Region 4
Subject: Attn. Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement Proposal

Dear Sirs,

I would like to go on record as supporting FWP's purchase of a perpetual easement on 298 acres from Olson Farms. In particular, I was pleased to read that FWP's minimum grazing standards will achieve a balance between maintaining sustainable agriculture and quality fish and wildlife habitat on the 298 acres. Furthermore, the conservation easement will preclude the area from becoming another Missouri River subdivision.

Respectfully yours,

Lloyd Straits
Ducks unlimited Volunteer

Date: 10/22/2014

RE: Support of Pheasant Bend Easement Proposal

Dear Montana FWP,

I strongly support the proposal to establish a conservation easement on the Olson property, also known as the Pheasant Bend Easement. I commend MT FWP for their work on this proposal and encourage the acquisition of this easement. The continued efforts by FWP to protect wildlife habitat and ensure public access are critical to the future of hunting and fishing in Montana.

Sincerely,
Ernie Lundberg

Renee Lundberg
PO Box 821, Lincoln, MT 59639

406-362-4072
erlundberg@linctel.net

Oct. 22, 2014

RE: Support of Pheasant Bend Easement Proposal

Dear Montana FWP,

I strongly support the proposal to establish a conservation easement on the Olson property, also known as the Pheasant Bend Easement. I commend MT FWP for their work on this proposal and encourage the acquisition of this easement. The continued efforts by FWP to protect wildlife habitat and ensure public access are critical to the future of hunting and fishing in Montana.

Sincerely,
//Renee Lundberg

From: John Wornom [<mailto:jwornom@wyoben.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 9:23 AM
To: FWP Region 4
Subject: Support of Pheasant Bend Easement Proposal

Date: October 23, 2014

RE: Support of Pheasant Bend Easement Proposal

Dear Montana FWP,

I strongly support the proposal to establish a conservation easement on the Olson property, also known as the Pheasant Bend Easement. I commend MT FWP for their work on this proposal and encourage the acquisition of this easement. The continued efforts by FWP to protect wildlife habitat and ensure public access are critical to the future of hunting and fishing in Montana.

Sincerely,



John L. Wornom
Vice President Sales & Marketing
WYO-BEN, Inc.
PO Box 1979, Billings, MT USA 59103
Phone: 406.652.6351
Cell: 406.647.6672
Fax: 406.656.0748
<mailto:jwornom@wyoben.com>

From: Jim Daugherty [<mailto:jdaugherty@linctel.net>]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 9:54 AM
To: FWP Region 4
Cc: 'Robert Sanders'
Subject: Support of Pheasant Bend Easement Proposal

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks,

I strongly support the proposal to establish a conservation easement on the Olson property, also known as the Pheasant Bend Easement. I want to thank the MT FWP for their work on this proposal and strongly encourage the acquisition of this easement.

MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks continued efforts to protect wildlife and waterfowl habitat and ensure public access is critical to the future of hunting and fishing in Montana.

Respectfully,

Jim Daugherty

Jim Daugherty
State Chairman
Montana Ducks Unlimited
PO Box 836
Lincoln, MT 59639-0836
(406) 362-4102 (Home)
(951) 318-7704 (Cell)
jdaugherty@linctel.net

From: vinceluparell@hotmail.com [<mailto:vinceluparell@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 3:50 PM

To: FWP Region 4

Subject: Public Comment: Draft Environmental Assessment Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement

I feel that purchasing the 298 acres from the Olson Farms will help the maintain a great place for numerous game and non game animals to really take hold. It appears to connect with or is very close to other easements and WMA that are being managed with the public's best interest. The wild turkeys seem to be doing well on the easement near by, and this will give them more habitat and increase the public's access along with ensuring that quality habitat will be maintained for future generations. Thank you FWP for working so hard at a acquiring these very valuable pieces of property. Keep up the good work. Vince Luparell

Russell Country Sportsmen's Association



P.O. Box 282 • Great Falls, Montana 59403

October 20, 2014

Cory Loecker
Wildlife Biologist
Montana F. W. & P.
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405

Dear Cory:

The Russell Country Sportsmen's Association is in full support of the proposed Olson Farms Pheasant Bend conservation Easement.

This is a well developed and planned acquisition that will provide much needed recreational opportunities. It also protects valuable habitat and agricultural values while still allowing for the property to stay in private ownership.

Thank you for all your work on this project as well as the involvement and effort by all parties involved. Thanks also for providing RCSA the opportunity to submit comments.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Borgreen".

John Borgreen
Past President, RCSA



October 21, 2014

MT FWP,

With this letter, the Great Falls Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI) expresses our support for the purchase of the proposed Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement from Olson Farms. This project, along with the other conservation easement efforts along the Missouri, will protect critical wetland and riparian habitat while maintaining prime farm land in private ownership. The recreational opportunities and habitat protection will benefit future generations forever.

The Great Falls Chapter of Safari Club International offers our continued support to projects and strategies that maintain and enhance fisheries and wildlife populations and their habitats, while continuing our hunting, fishing and recreating heritage in Montana. Thank you for your efforts on this and other projects in our area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Brad Lencioni". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brad" and last name "Lencioni" clearly distinguishable.

Brad Lencioni
Great Falls Safari Club International
Chapter President



Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

October 20, 2014

Cory Loecker
Wildlife Biologist
Montana F. W. & P.
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405

Dear Cory:

The Montana Sportsmen Alliance submits the following comments in support of the proposed Olson Farms Pheasant Bend conservation easement.

The proposed easement meets all the standards required in providing quality hunting and recreational opportunities in an easily accessible area while still protecting critical habitat, wildlife resources, and agricultural values. It also promotes positive sportsmen/landowner relations. In addition, keeping the property in private ownership is an added positive and critical component.

Thank you for providing MSA the opportunity to comment on this important project. Thanks also to you and all involved for moving this acquisition forward.

With kind regards,



John Borgreen
Montana Sportsmen Alliance

www.montanasportsmenalliance.com

www.pac.montanasportsmenalliance.com

P.O. Box 1324 | Hamilton, Montana 59840

THOMAS S. STIVERS

1035 Horseshoe Bend

Lewistown, MT 59457

6 October 2014

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

ATTN: Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement Proposal.

I encourage you to acquire a conservation easement (CE) on the property you are calling the Pheasant Bend Conservation Easement Proposal. It will be a great addition to the existing conservation easements and public lands already present along that stretch of the Missouri River.

I particularly like the park-and-walk public hunting access it will provide. Maintaining agricultural crops, as well as cattle grazing per your proposal, is also a nice and appropriate mix that will benefit wildlife, the public, and the landowner.

Tell Cory to keep up the good work.

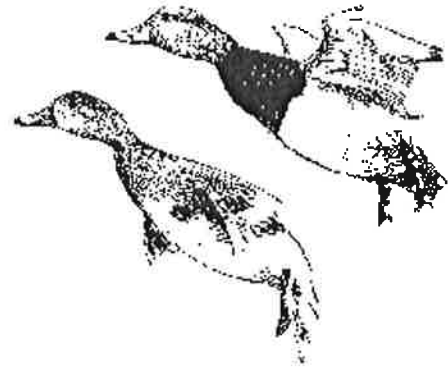
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas S. Stivers", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas S. Stivers

**ROBERT SANDERS
P.O. BOX 183
ELLISTON, MT 59728
(406) 492-2002**

e-mail: rsanders@ducks.org



October 19, 2014

RE: Support of Pheasant Bend Easement Proposal

Dear Montana FWP,

I strongly support the proposal to establish a conservation easement on the Olson property, also known as the Pheasant Bend Easement. I commend MT FWP for their work on this proposal and encourage the acquisition of this easement. The continued efforts by FWP to protect wildlife habitat and ensure public access are critical to the future of hunting and fishing in Montana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Sanders". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first and last names being clearly legible.